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Message Text

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62
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00

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SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 /149 R

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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET, US
SUBJECT: BRIEFING RE ETHIOPIAN CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 200946

1. SINCE STATEMENT REFTEL ON RECOGNITION NOT PRECISELY ACCURATE FOLLOWING IS DEPT'S CUSTOMARY GUIDANCE TO EMBASSIES FOR HANDLING RECOGNITION ISSUE AFTER ABRUPT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE:

A. MAINTAIN NORMAL CONTACTS. (IN THIS REGARD, CHARGE'S MEETING WITH GEN. AMAN AT HIS REQUEST QUITE PROPER.)
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B. DOWNPLAY ANY QUESTIONS RE U.S. RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

C. AVOID SIGNIFICANT NEW BILATERAL ACTIONS IMPLYING APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT (SUCH AS FORMAL CONGRATULATORY OR CRITICAL STATEMENTS, HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS, COMMENCEMENT OR CONCLUSION OF NEW AGREEMENTS).

D. AVOID STATEMENTS OR ACTS SUGGESTING THAT RECOGNITION IS QUESTION TO BE FORMALLY OR DRAMATICALLY DECIDED.

2. AS IS OBVIOUS, POLICY DESIGNED PERMIT CONTINUING PURSUIT OF U.S. INTERESTS THROUGH NORMAL CONTACTS WHILE PROVIDING PERIOD FOR USG APPRAISAL OF SITUATION. THOUGH RECOGNITION REMAINS A RELEVANT ISSUE, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO AVOID UNDUE EMPHASIS UPON IT BY STRESSING INSTEAD THE FULL RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS AFTER BRIEF ASSESSMENT PERIOD. WHEN PRESSED WE HAVE STATED THAT FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMPLIED U.S. RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ANY SPECIFIC EVENT WHICH CONSTITUTED RECOGNITION.

3. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT:

QUESTION: DOES THE U.S. RECOGNIZE THE NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME?

ANSWER; OUR RESPONSE TO THE EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA IS SIMILAR TO OUR REACTION TO OTHER ABRUPT GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS. THE ISSUE OF RECOGNITION IS DE-EMPHASIZED. RATHER THE EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE NORMAL CONTACTS AND MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NEW REGIME HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE SIGNING OF NEW AGREEMENTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT BILATERAL ACTIONS ARE NORMALLY AVOIDED DURING THIS PERIOD. ULTIMATELY, AFTER THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE SITUATION, FULL SCALE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND RELATIONS ARE RESUMED WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC EVENT CONSTITUTING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACT OF RECOGNITION. KISSINGER

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